



Lighten Up With CFLs

Your Energy Bill Will Be Lighter Too!

You've probably seen Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) in your local home improvement store. While CFLs may look unconventional, they can bring real savings to your home lighting costs. The amount of savings differs between types and brands of CFLs – ENERGY STAR® rated CFLs can last up to 10,000 hours and save \$25 to \$45 in energy costs over the life of the bulb. Other advantages of CFLs include:

CFLs provide 90 percent less heat while producing more light per watt.

While CFLs cost more to purchase, if you figure the total cost over the life of the bulb, you can save significant money versus replacing traditional incandescent bulbs more frequently.

CFLs are more convenient for hard-to-reach places in your home because they last so much longer and require less frequent replacing. With a CFL, you may only need to replace hard-to-reach bulbs every two to four years!

For more information on CFLs, visit www.eere.energy.gov and search “compact fluorescents.”

Use the following tips year-round to decrease your electric usage and your monthly electric bill.

In the summer, keep your thermostat no lower than 78°. Each additional degree below 78° adds about three percent to your energy costs.

In the winter, keep your thermostat set to 68-72°. Heat pumps operate differently than other heating systems, so follow the correct tips for your home heating system.

Limit use of portable space heaters.

If you use a window air conditioner, seal all cracks and open areas around the unit. Check the filter regularly and clean or replace the filter when needed.

Use fans instead of, or in addition to, air conditioning.

Weatherstrip your doors, caulk cracks in the door frames and replace worn or ill-fitting thresholds.

Consider Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs). CFLs use a fraction of the energy of traditional incandescent lightbulbs and last up to ten times longer. Also, CFLs do not release heat like incandescent bulbs. CFLs are available in home improvement stores in the lighting section.

Avoid using appliances such as the washing machine, dryer and dishwasher during peak electric usage times (between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.) Daytime hours have the highest demand for electricity, so wait until the evening hours, when temperatures are lower, to run energy-guzzling appliances.

Purchase energy-efficient products when replacing appliances and heating and cooling equipment. Look for ENERGY STAR® products.

For more information about saving electricity and saving money on your electric utility bill, visit us online at www.ncpublicpower.com.